



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294  
(323) 881-2401

DARYL L. OSBY  
FIRE CHIEF  
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

September 20, 2013

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

### IMPERIAL INCIDENT, CITY OF HAWTHORNE – SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

This memo is to provide your Honorable Board with updated information on the Imperial Incident, which occurred on September 12, 2013, at the Golden State Water Company in the City of Hawthorne. This incident involved a hazardous material release from a water well at the company site. A Major Incident Report was forwarded to Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas on September 13, 2013 (attached).

Currently, work crews have stopped large quantities of water and methane flow from the well; however, there is still methane gas seeping from the well head. On Thursday, September 19, 2013, the goal of the work crews was to install a blowout preventer on the well head to control escape and to prevent another large release. Unfortunately, one of the parts used to assemble the blowout preventer failed its laboratory test. As of 6:00 a.m. today, the pressure control company, Boots & Coots/Halliburton, is continuing to work at the well site and is confident the problem will be corrected (approximately a 10-hour operation).

The Los Angeles County Fire Department and the City of Hawthorne held a meeting with the local residents on Thursday, September 19, 2013, to provide a status on the situation and to address their concerns. The following agencies are also providing their assistance as needed: Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Health-Environmental Services, CEO-Office of Emergency Management, Golden State Water Company, and Boots & Coots/Halliburton.

At this time, it is estimated that residents will be able to return to their homes on Monday, September 23, 2013.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS  
ARTESIA  
AZUSA  
BALDWIN PARK  
BELL  
BELL GARDENS  
BELLFLOWER  
BRADBURY

CALABASAS  
CARSON  
CERRITOS  
CLAREMONT  
COMMERCE  
COVINA  
CUDAHY

DIAMOND BAR  
DUARTE  
EL MONTE  
GARDENA  
GLENDALE  
HAWAIIAN GARDENS  
HAWTHORNE

HIDDEN HILLS  
HUNTINGTON PARK  
INDUSTRY  
INGLEWOOD  
IRVINDALE  
LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE  
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA  
LA PUENTE  
LAKEWOOD  
LANCASTER  
LAWDALE  
LOMITA  
LYNWOOD

MALIBU  
MAYWOOD  
NORWALK  
PALMDALE  
PALOS VERDES ESTATES  
PARAMOUNT  
PICO RIVERA

POMONA  
RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
ROLLING HILLS  
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES  
ROSEMEAD  
SAN DIMAS  
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL  
SOUTH EL MONTE  
SOUTH GATE  
TEMPLE CITY  
WALNUT  
WEST HOLLYWOOD  
WESTLAKE VILLAGE  
WHITTIER

There are three critical tasks that must be accomplished in succession prior to allowing residents back into their homes.

- Successful installation of the blowoff preventer on the well head (see attached picture).
- Pouring a primary concrete plug into the well. This will require 12 hours to cure.
- Pouring of a secondary concrete plug into the well. This will also require 12 hours to cure.
- If all seepage of methane is stopped with this process, residents will be allowed to return to their homes.

Residents are currently being housed at the following hotels in the City of Hawthorne:

- Candlewood Hotel
- La Quinta Inn
- Comfort Inn
- Ramada Inn

I will provide another update to your Honorable Board as more information becomes available.

DLO:en

#### Attachments

c: William T Fujioka  
Brence Culp  
Georgia Mattera  
Monica Garcia  
Sergio Vasquez  
Randi Tahara  
Joseph Charney  
Susan Nissman  
Rick Velasquez  
Sussy Nemer



# **MAJOR INCIDENT REPORT**

## **A SPECIAL REPORT FROM**

### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE CHIEF DARYL L. OSBY**

**INCIDENT:**

Imperial Incident

**TYPE OF INCIDENT:**

Hazardous Material Release

**DISTRICT/LOCATION:**

Second Supervisorial District  
11305 South Truro Avenue, Hawthorne  
T.B. Map 703 C6

**DATE AND TIME OF OCCURRENCE:**

Thursday, September 12, 2013, 6:22 p.m.

**INJURIES/FATALITIES:**

None

**INVESTIGATION STATUS:**

The cause of this incident is under investigation.

**INCIDENT SUMMARY:**

On September 12, 2013, at 6:22 p.m., County fire units responded to a report of a gas leak coming from a Golden State Water Company water well located at 11305 South Truro Avenue in the City of Hawthorne, resulting in several residential homes evacuated or sheltered in place. Upon arrival, firefighter discovered a water well emitting an unknown gas while Golden State Water Company employees attempted to stop the use of the well. Readings from the well showed in the lower explosive limits, so firefighters proceeded to deny entry and isolate the location. Hazardous Materials and Health Hazardous Materials Teams were responded to monitor the gas. It was determined by these teams that evacuations were necessary. Hawthorne Police Department evacuated residents on Condon Street to the north of the incident; hotel accommodations were provided to them by Golden State Water Company. Residents to the south of the incident on Truro Avenue were advised to shelter in place. Currently fire personnel remain on scene to assisting in blocking off the well with no estimated time of completion. No firefighter injuries have been reported.

Assigned to this incident included: two engines, one quint, one paramedic squad, one hazardous materials task force team, three health hazardous materials officers, and one battalion chief. Hawthorne Public Works and Department of Oil and Gas/Geological are also assisting on scene.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE AT (323) 881-6180**



